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PRIORITY

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

773.5-MSP/9-1257

FROM : AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

96
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 12, 1957
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	RM/R-2, W/MSA-1, OCI-8, ICA-10, P-1
	REC'D 9/19	INFO OTHER CIA-12, OSD-4, ARMY-4, NAVY-3, AIR-3, USIA-1

SUBJECT: Prime Minister Praises American Aid.

Somewhat reversing his form, Prime Minister Ku'bar in an interview with a Sudanese newspaperman published on September 7 in Al-Raid was quoted as saying that:

Libya had accepted American assistance because it is not contingent upon any condition and without any requirement which would limit the freedom or independence of Libya or interfere with her sovereignty, and that this aid would greatly assist in strengthening the Libyan economy and in raising the social and cultural standards in Libya.

During the interview, the Prime Minister also spoke of strengthening Libyan-Sudanese relations and his Government's (actually the King's) decision to force removal of military attaches from foreign missions here.

A translation of the text of the article is attached.

Comment: The remarks on American assistance constitute a refreshing change from previous hints of accepting Soviet bloc help and widespread coffee-house stories deprecating the effectiveness and use of U.S. aid.

The Embassy believes that specific word may have come from King Idris, which resulted in this statement.

It may also stem in part from the concern expressed by various Embassy officers to Libyan officials in recent weeks over various actions of the GOL, which while perhaps not specifically anti-American in origin, nevertheless have placed obstacles in the way of Embassy and USOM objectives and operations here. (These include items ranging from foreign anti-American propaganda to stumbling blocks in the educational exchange program to difficulties in obtaining customs clearances.)

The statement may also have resulted from an increased sensitivity on the part of the Prime Minister to internal and external charges that through American economic and military activities in the country, Libya is in danger of rapidly becoming an American satellite. (The press recently featured an article from the Soviet newspaper SOVETSKI FLOT, which stated

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REVIEWED BY REPORTER J.M.Razi DATE May 6, 1982

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SEP 14 1957

The action office must return this permanent record copy to RM/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356 Sec. 3.4
NARA DATE 1/31/96

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO CONFIDENTIAL BY AUTHORITY OF DOS LETTER DATED SEP 23 1957

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that "Libya is being intensively converted into an American military base").

Such remarks from the Prime Minister, while helpful, cannot be expected to have much affect on Libyan public opinion which, in the first instance, continues to be more influenced by Soviet-Egyptian propaganda, and, in the second, is not believed to hold Ku'bar in much affection, confidence, or repute.

Rodger P. Davies

Rodger P. Davies
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

cc:Benghazi.

Enclosure: 1

Statements of the Prime Minister in an interview with a Sudanese Newsman.

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(Classification)

AL-RAID, Saturday, September 7, 1957

STATEMENTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A SUDANESE NEWSMAN

Strengthening brotherhood of the two states; uniting their foreign policies; unconditional American aid; withdrawal of all military attaches from Libya.

Prime Minister Abd al-Majid Ku'bar received in his office in Baida the Sudanese newsman Professor Abu Bakr Uthman. His Excellency talked to him about the general policies which Libya follows in dealing with its internal and foreign affairs. During his conversation, his Excellency referred to the strengthening of relations between Libya and Sudan, and working toward strengthening the trust and confident friendship between the Libya and Sudanese peoples, and toward supporting the exchange of cultural and commercial matters between the two Arab nations.

His Excellency also said that Libyan-Sudanese relations are strong, since the foreign policites which Libya follows are the same foreign policies followed by the Sudan, and this was the greatest evidence of the unity of the two countries and their harmony in unified policies which would bring them, and the other Arab countries, experience and benefit.

Later, his Excellency went on to discuss American assistance, and said that Libya had accepted American assistance because it is not contingent upon any condition and without any requirement which would limit the freedom or independence of Libya or interfere with her sovereignty, and that this aid would greatly assist in strengthening the Libyan economy and in raising the social and cultural standards in Libya.

The Sudanese newsman then asked his Excellency about military alliance, and he replied:

Libya is a peaceful country and does not have any greedy military or political ambitions, and it has never been said that Libya was a cause of concern or hindrance to any other country. Our policies depend upon the interests of Libya, and any other country must appreciate the conditions and situations of the country which agree with the economic and political situation (of the country). We in Libya adhere to the aims and decision of th United Nations and of the Bandung Conference, and the Pact of the Arab States, especially relating to non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

His Excellency added: In the light of these policies, Libya has sent communications to all political representation in Libya requesting withdrawal of military attaches at once, and to do away with their positions, and to limit themselves to political representation.

The Prime Minister ended his interview, saying: His Majesty the King is

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directing efforts toward raising the standards of the Libyan people and spreading education among the Libyan people so that success and prosperity will be realized in all parts of Libya, and to the benefit of all Arab peoples.